Non-NFSM districts to enhance the production of pulses and maize. The Government has also launched a new scheme National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility in November, 2008 to promote balanced use of nutrients for higher production.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was also launched in 2007-08 with an outlay of Rs. 25000 crores for XI Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12) to incentivise States to invest and reorient the current agricultural development strategies.

Although it would be too early to predict about the food situation in 2020, it can be visualized with a reasonable degree of confidence that the country would not only remain comfortable on foodgrains front during the 11th Plan but may also have some elbow room for export of wheat and rice.

Classification of iron ores for fixing freight charges

*179. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has classified iron ores for fixing freight charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steel producers have resented the proposal; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Iron Ore for domestic consumption has been classified at Class-180 and Iron Ore for export has been classified at Class-200X.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Some of the Steel producers have represented for lowering the freight rates. These requests were examined and were not found feasible to agree to.

Recruitment in the railways

*180. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recruitment made in the Railways during the last three years, post-wise, year-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the number of candidates selected to various posts in the Indian Railways in the last three years, post-wise, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Railways would face any constraints to issue a White Paper on the recruitment of various posts made in various zones of the Indian Railways in the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether the Ministry would issue a White Paper on the recruitment of various posts in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Indian Railways have a well defined and detailed procedure for recruitment, with adequate and in-built checks and balances. The procedure has evolved over the years and has stood the test of time. It is well geared to meet the requirements of the system adequately, ensuring transparency, fairness and selection, strictly on merit. Details of recruitment to various posts made in different Railways in the last three years, shall be laid on the Table of the Sabha, as mentioned above.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

1240. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Horticulture Mission has become operational; and

(b) if so, the benefits achieved from the Mission so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has launched the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) during 2005-06, for holistic development of horticulture sector, duly ensuring an end to end approach having backward and forward linkages covering production, post harvest management and marketing with the active involvement of all the stake holders. All the States and Union Territories are covered under the Mission except the eight North Eastern States including Sikkim and the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which have been covered under another Mission namely, Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States (TMNE). The achievements made under the Mission upto 2007-08 are as under:-

- 1710 new nurseries have been setup.
- An area of about 8.26 lakh ha has been brought under new plantation and an area of 1.2 lakh ha under old and senile plantation has been rejuvenated.
- Organic farming and Integrated Pest Management programme have been taken up in 0.76 lakh ha area and 4.0 lakh ha area respectively.
- Under the post harvest management component, 898 pack houses, 46 cold storages, 14 refrigerated vans, 7 whole sale markets and 45 rural markets have been assisted.

Damage to crops due to rains

1241. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rains in the months of May-June have damaged the bumper wheat crop;

(b) if so, whether monsoon has been normal with the result that output of wheat and rice have fully improved; and

(c) if so, to what extent Government is confident of achieving the target set for the foodgrains?